This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1-43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A method for detecting the presence of antibodies against Hepatitis A virus in a subject, comprising contacting an antibody from the subject with one or more synthetic peptides that are immunoreactive with antibodies directed against Hepatitis A virus (HAV), wherein the peptide is at least ~~about~~ nine amino acid residues in length to ~~about~~ 35 amino acid residues in length with one ~~or more~~ molecules of the amino acid glutamine at the carboxyl terminal, and detecting binding of the peptides to the antibodies, wherein detecting binding of the peptides to the antibodies indicates the presence of antibodies against Hepatitis A virus in the subject.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the antibodies are in a biological sample from the subject.

46. (currently amended) A method for detecting acute phase infection of Hepatitis A virus in a subject, comprising contacting an antibody from the subject with one or more synthetic peptides that are immunoreactive with antibodies directed against Hepatitis A virus (HAV), wherein the peptide is at least ~~about~~ nine amino acid residues in length to ~~about~~ 35 amino acid residues in length with one ~~or more~~ molecules of the amino acid glutamine at the carboxyl terminal, and detecting binding of the peptide to IgM antibodies against Hepatitis A virus, wherein detecting binding of the peptide to IgM antibodies indicates acute phase infection of Hepatitis A virus in the subject.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the antibodies are in a biological sample from the subject.

48. (withdrawn) A method of enhancing immunoreactivity of a synthetic peptide to an IgM antibody directed against Hepatitis A Virus, comprising synthesizing the peptide with one or more glutamine molecules at the carboxyl terminal of the peptide, wherein the carboxyl terminal glutamine enhances immunoreactivity of the peptide to an IgM antibody directed against Hepatitis A Virus.

49. (withdrawn) The method of claim 48, where in the peptide is at least about nine amino acid residues in length to about 35 amino acid residues in length.

50. (withdrawn) The method of claim 49, wherein the peptide has a primary structure not identical to a peptide of HAV.

51. (withdrawn) A method of enhancing immunogenicity of a synthetic peptide to produce an IgM antibody directed against Hepatitis A Virus, comprising synthesizing the peptide with one or more glutamine molecules at the carboxyl terminal of the peptide, wherein the carboxyl terminal glutamine enhances immunogenicity of the peptide to produce an IgM antibody directed against Hepatitis A Virus.

52. (withdrawn) The method of claim 51, where in the peptide is at least about nine amino acid residues in length to about 35 amino acid residues in length.

53. (withdrawn) The method of claim 52, wherein the peptide has a primary structure not identical to a peptide of HAV.